MODULAR COFFER TRIM KIT AND METHOD

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to trim kits and, more particularly, a grid-less and framework-less modular coffer trim kit which is directly securable to a ceiling or wall.

Installing a coffer ceiling or wall into a home or office is currently very costly for the average consumer because the amount of time and labor required for installation. The current process of installing a coffer ceiling or wall requires the following steps: (1) builders cutting a "tray" (recess) into the ceiling or wall; (2) building a framework to fit within the tray; (3) constructing each molding to fit within the framework and (4) securing the framework to the ceiling or wall. Because the framework with the attached moldings is so large, several people are needed to assist in the securing process. In addition, the height of the ceiling or wall and the size of the coffer ceiling or wall desired increases the installation time and difficulty dramatically, which also increases the amount of money charged to the property owner for time and labor.

This invention provides a novel modular coffer trim kit for use by the average property owner. It is grid-less, framework-less, lightweight and directly attachable to a ceiling or wall, thus drastically reducing stress, time, labor and cost in comparison to the conventional coffered trim installation process.

The prior includes the following United States patents:

U.S. Patent No.	Inventor	Filing Date	Issue Date
4,175,360	Mulvey	05-02-1977	11-27-1979
3,848,385	Thompson	06-12-1970	11-19-1974
4,772,161	Young	04-29-1982	02-02-1988
3,685,238	Fisher *et al.*	05-06-1970	08-22-1972

5,239,801	Adams	08-07-1992	08-31-1993
4,926,606	Hanson	11-14-1988	05-22-1990
3,319,389	Levine	08-04-1964	05-16-1967
4,189,888	Blitzer, Jr.	03-02-1978	02-26-1980

None of the above patents disclose a grid-less and framework-less modular trim kit which is directly securable to a ceiling or wall.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The primary object of this invention is to provide a modular coffer trim kit which is easy to install, perhaps even by a single person.

A further object of the present invention is to provide a modular coffer trim kit which is lightweight.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a modular coffer trim kit which is aesthetically pleasing.

An even further object of the present invention is to provide a modular coffer trim kit which is inexpensive to the average consumer.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a modular coffer trim kit which does not require a framework for installation.

An even further object of the present invention is to provide a modular coffer trim kit which is directly securable to a ceiling or wall.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a modular coffer trim kit which can surround other wall hangings, such as plasma screen televisions and speakers.

The present invention fulfills the above and other objects by providing a modular coffer trim kit which is grid-less and framework-less and directly securable

to a ceiling or wall. The modular coffer trim kit is preassembled so as to eliminate the need for building the trim on the property. The kits are made of a lightweight wood, preferably pine, and come in a variety of shapes. Because a framework is not needed, even a single person can install the entire coffer ceiling or wall themselves in a fraction of the time. The trim kit could be used to create a decorative effect on a ceiling or wall. It could also be used to give a more sophisticated appearance to other hanging wall objects, such as a plasma screen televisions and speakers, by giving a shelf-like finish.

The above and other objects, features and advantages of the present invention should become even more readily apparent to those skilled in the art upon a reading of the following detailed description in conjunction with the drawings wherein there is shown and described illustrative embodiments of the invention.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

This invention is described by appended claims in relation to description of a preferred embodiment with reference to the following drawings which are explained briefly as follows:

FIG. 1 is bottom view of a first embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 2 is an upward perspective view of a second embodiment of the present invention installed on a ceiling;

FIG. 3 is an upward perspective view of a third embodiment of the present invention installed on a ceiling;

FIG. 4 is an upward perspective view of a fourth embodiment of the present invention installed on a ceiling; and

FIG. 5 is a frontal view of a fifth embodiment of the present invention installed on a wall.

DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Listed numerically below with reference to the drawings are terms used to describe features of this invention. These terms and numbers assigned to them designate the same features throughout this description.

1. modular coffer trim kit
2. outer trim
3. inner trim
4. coffer module
5. ornament
6. lowered section of module
7. raised section of module
8. plasma screen television
9. speaker
10. shelf
11. pre-cut hole
12. door
13. light

Referring to **FIG. 1**, a first embodiment of a modular coffer trim kit **1** is shown. The kit **1** includes an outer trim **2**, an inner trim **3**, coffer modules **4** and ornaments **5**. The pre-assembled kit **1** is packaged with the inner trim **3** connected to the coffer modules **4** having a lowered section **6** and a raised section **7** in order to give a three-dimensional appearance when affixed to a structure. Ornaments **5** are then added as desired by the user. The user can either affix the lowered section of the modules **6** directly to a ceiling or a wall at this point or, for a more sophisticated look, use the outer trim **2** to surround all the modules **4** and then proceed to affix the structure to a ceiling or a wall. Because the entire kit **1** is made of a light wood, preferably pine, one person is capable of coffering an entire ceiling quickly and easily. To secure the modules **4**, a user simply places the lowered section of the modules **6** in the desired location and secures it to the ceiling using a fastener, preferably by using a butterfly bolt.

With reference to **FIGS. 2-4**, second, third and fourth embodiments of the present invention having the same components already discussed in relation to **FIG. 1** are shown installed on ceilings.

In **FIG. 5**, a fifth embodiment of the present invention having the same components already discussed in relation to **FIG. 1** is shown installed on a wall. The user simply positions the inner trim **3** connected to the coffer modules **4** against the wall to achieve the desired appearance and then secures the modules **4** directly to the wall. Some of the inner trims **3** have pre-cut holes **11** to surround pre-hung speakers **9**. A coffer module **4** can have an opening large enough to frame a plasma screen television **8**. Optional doors **12** can be affixed to the modules **4**. Additionally, shelves **10** and lights **13** can be secured to the wall for a more sophisticated appearance.

Because the kit **1** eliminates the need for a grid and framework, less time and expense is required for the installation of a coffer ceiling.

It is to be understood that while a certain form of the invention is illustrated, it is not to be limited to the specific form or arrangement of parts herein described and shown. It will be apparent to those skilled in the art that various changes may be made without departing from the scope of the invention and the invention is not to be considered limited to what is shown and described in the specification and drawings.